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TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)Docket No. 14
01-050

Re Application Of: WALKER et al.

Serial No.
09994810
Not Yet AssignedFiling Date
November 27, 2001Examiner
Not Yet AssignedGroup Art Unit
Not Yet AssignedTitle: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR UTILIZING DEMAND INFORMATION AT A VENDING MACHINE**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (5 pp.);
PTO Form-1449 (4 pp.), and references cited therein (45); and
Return Receipt Postcard.

in the above identified application.

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is attached.
- ☒ The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **50-0271** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.

Signature

Dated: November 30, 2001

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CC:

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited
on December 3, 2001 with the U.S. Postal Service as
first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
20231.

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Michael D. Brinton

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application of: WALKER et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: November 27, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
UTILIZING DEMAND INFORMATION
AT A VENDING MACHINE

) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
)
) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
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) Attorney Docket No: 01-050
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) Customer No.: 22927
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 and mailed on December 3, 2001.

Dated: 12/03/01 By:

Michael D. Brinton

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a thorough search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Nor shall the filing of this information disclosure statement be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 may be deemed to be pertinent

to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 and to independently ascertain their teaching.

1. ☐ Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the pending U.S. patent applications listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider and independently ascertain the teachings and relevance of those applications with respect to the instant application. Applicants would be pleased to provide the Examiner with a copy of these applications upon request.
2. ☐ For each of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a European Search Report from a counterpart European application is enclosed. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): _____.
3. ☐ For each of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): _____.
4. ☒ No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:

[X] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application.

[] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491.

- [] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
5. [] No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below.
6. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action). The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is to be paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.
7. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance, but before the payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:
- a. one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below; and
 - b. this document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.
 - c. the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.
8. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable and is accompanied by the attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue;

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Continuation application upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue.

☐ The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.

9. ☐ I hereby certify:

☐ that each item of information contained in the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of such communication is enclosed.

☐ that no item of information contained or listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.


10. ☐ Please accept payment of the fees due as indicated below:

☐ A check in the amount of \$240.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).

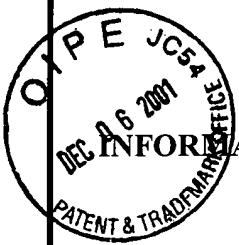
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$240.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0271 in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p). A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached for such purpose
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$130.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1).
- ☐ The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$130.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0271 in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1). A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.
11. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. A copy of this authorization is attached.
12. ☐ No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

Respectfully submitted,

November 30, 2001
Date



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION	Docket Number 01-050	Serial Number Not Yet Assigned
	Applicants WALKER et al.	
	Filing Date November 27, 2001	Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A	4,498,570	02/12/85	King et al.	194	1 N	
	B	4,574,947	03/11/86	Hutchings	206	45.34	
	C	4,598,378	07/01/86	Giacomo	364	479	
	D	4,639,875	01/27/87	Abraham et al.	364	479	
	E	4,654,800	03/31/87	Hayashi et al.	364	479	
	F	4,679,150	07/07/87	Hayashi et al.	364	479	
	G	4,736,096	04/05/88	Ushikubo	235	472	
	H	4,834,231	05/30/89	Awane et al.	194	217	
	I	4,899,906	02/13/90	Bella	221	67	
	J	4,999,763	03/12/91	Ousborne	364	140	
	K	5,029,098	07/02/91	Levasseur	364	479	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

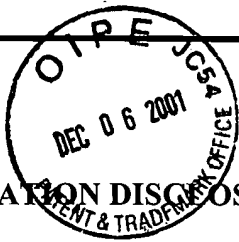
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	Translation	
							Yes	No
	L	WO 95/27242	10/12/95	PCT				
	M	8-147545	06/07/96	Japan				
	N	JP 9190479 A	07/22/97	Japan (Abstract)				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	O	PCT International Search Report for Application No. PCT/NO95/00060, dated October 10, 1995.
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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED:
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIAT E
	P	5,091,713	02/25/92	Horne et al.	340	541	
	Q	5,117,407	05/26/92	Vogel	369	30	
	R	5,257,179	10/26/93	DeMar	364	410	
	S	5,408,417	04/18/95	Wilder	364	479	
	T	5,504,675	04/02/96	Cragun et al.	364	401	
	U	5,546,316	08/13/96	Buckley et al.	364	479.03	
	V	5,596,501	01/21/97	Comer et al.	364	464.23	
	W	5,630,357	05/20/97	Akiyama	99	323.6	
	X	5,685,435	11/11/97	Picioccio et al.	209	677	
	Y	5,687,087	11/11/97	Taggart	364	479.03	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	Translation	
							Yes	No
	Z	WO 97/28510	08/07/97	PCT				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AA	Burke, Raymond R., "Virtual Shopping: Breakthrough in Marketing Research", Harvard Business Review, March-April 1996, pp. 120-131.
BB	Website: VendMaster, "Products; Windows for Vending", (http //www vendmaster com/products_main html), download date: July 16, 1998.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED:
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	CC	5,732,950	03/31/98	Moody	273	292	
	DD	5,768,142	06/16/98	Jacobs	364	479.01	
	EE	5,769,269	06/23/98	Peters	221	7	
	FF	5,822,216	10/13/98	Satchell, Jr. et al.	364	479.01	
	GG	5,831,862	11/03/98	Hetrick et al.	364	479.02	
	HH	5,875,110	02/23/99	Jacobs	364	479.02	
	II	5,878,401	03/02/99	Joseph	705	22	
	JJ	5,930,771	07/27/99	Stapp	705	28	
	KK	5,959,869	09/28/99	Miller et al.	364	479.01	
	LL	5,963,452	10/05/99	Etoh et al.	364	479.06	

FOR/IGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	Translation	
							Yes	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

MM	Website: VendMaster, "Windows for Vending PRO with Inventory", (http://www.vendmaster.com/pro_inv_main.html), download date: July 16, 1998.
NN	Website: Optimum Energy Group - Products, "VendingMi\$er", (http://www.optimumenergy.com/products/miser.html), download date: August 12, 1998.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED:

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Group Art Unit

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	OO	5,988,346	11/23/99	Tedesco et al.	194	217	
	PP	6,021,394	02/01/00	Takahashi	705	10	
	QQ	6,048,267	04/11/00	Wichinsky	463	13	
	RR	6,050,568	04/18/00	Hachquet	273	292	
	SS	6,052,667	04/18/00	Walker et al.	705	15	

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	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	Translation	
							Yes	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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